



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **New Jersey ICE agents make thirteen arrests in anti-gang operation**

***--Operation takes down leadership of up and coming Colombian street gang--***

NEWARK, N.J. – During a two-week operation which ended yesterday special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) here have arrested the leadership of the Colombian street gang Los Gamines. The organization, based in several communities in Hudson County, is an up-and-coming gang heavily involved in narcotics trafficking and other crimes.

The arrests by New Jersey ICE agents were made during a two-week nationwide Community Shield operation that ended yesterday. More than 375 gang members were arrested in the operation bringing to 2,388 the number arrested in the first year of ICE's Community Shield. The 13 recent apprehensions bring to 105 the total number of gang arrests made in New Jersey since Community Shield started.

All 13 of the gang members and associates arrested have criminal records. The investigation showed that the Los Gamines gang was heavily involved in narcotics trafficking and was slowly developing alliances with other infamous street gangs such as MS-13 and the Latin Kings.

"The rapid rise of this dangerous street gang is alarming," said Kyle Hutchins, special agent in charge of the Newark ICE office. "Members of this gang are involved in narcotics trafficking and other crimes which are destroying the quality of life in many neighborhoods." Hutchins said the investigation is a model of how ICE, the U.S. Attorney's office and other federal agencies can link with state and local police to bring down the leadership of a fast-developing street gang.

Eight of the suspects were arrested on criminal warrants and five arrested will be held on immigration charges that they are in the country illegally.

The criminal convictions of those arrested include aggravated sexual assault, weapons possession, possession of narcotics, possession with intent to distribute narcotics, robbery by force, burglary, felony theft, resisting arrest, and assault.

Hutchins pointed to Jorge Hernandez-Soto, the leader of Los Gamines, as an example of the type of individual arrested in the operation. According to Hutchins, "Hernandez-Soto is the worst of the worst." He was charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics and has past convictions for aggravated sexual assault, possession of weapons and narcotics, assault on police officers and robbery.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey will handle the prosecution in the cases.

Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins would like to thank the following law enforcement agencies and departments for their assistance:

Drug Enforcement Administration, Newark office

Hudson County Prosecutors Office

Guttenberg Police Department

Union City Police Department

West New York Police Department

Beginning on February 24th and continuing through yesterday, ICE agents around the United States teamed up with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to target gang members in XX states. The largest number of arrests occurred in Dallas (44), San Diego (41), Washington, D.C. (22), Miami (22), and Raleigh (19) and Newark (13). Gang members were also arrested in locations such as Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Des Moines, Iowa, and Springfield, Missouri.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*